

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL SYDNEY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS STATE 217449

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, AS

SUBJECT: INQUIRY ABOUT NATIONAL BOARD OF BOILERS AND
-- PRESSURE VESSELS

REF: SYDNEY 1828

1. THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS (ASME)
HAS ESTABLISHED CODES FOR SAFE CONSTRUCTION OF BOILERS AND
PRESSURES VESSELS, SETTING SPECIFICATIONS FOR MATERIALS
AND REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO DESIGN, FABRICATION, AND
INSPECTION. A SYMBOL STAMP, CERTIFYING MANUFACTURE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE ASME CODE IS ISSUED TO AUTHORIZED
MANUFACTURERS. ASME CERTIFICATION IS MADE IN CONJUNCTION
WITH INSPECTION AND AUTHORIZATION BY THE NATIONAL BOARD OF
BOILERS AND PRESSURE VESSEL INSPECTORS. MANY STATES AND
MUNICIPALITIES REQUIRE AN ASME STAMP OR NATIONAL BOARD
REGISTRATION NUMBER ON ALL BOILERS AND PRESSURE VESSELS
INSTALLED IN THEIR JURISDICTIONS. MANY INDUSTRIAL
PURCHASERS ALSO REQUIRE THESE MARKINGS.

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2. FOREIGN MANUFACTURERS SEEKING CERTIFICATION MAY APPLY BY LETTER TO THE ASME (345 EAST 47TH STREET, N.Y., N.Y. 10017), DESCRIBING THE TYPE OF PRESSURE VESSELS THEY WISH TO EXPORT TO THE UNITED STATES. ASME WILL THEN PROVIDE

GUIDANCE ON HOW TO PROCEED AS WELL AS EXPLANATION OF RELEVANT REQUIREMENTS. ASME WILL ALSO ASK FOREIGN MANUFACTURERS FOR ADVANCE PAYMENT TO COVER THE COSTS OF SENDING AN INSPECTION TEAM FROM THE UNITED STATES TO SURVEY THE PLANT TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE FOREIGN FIRM QUALIFIES. THE PROCEDURE ALSO CALLS FOR FOLLOW-UP IN-SHOP INSPECTIONS DURING ASSEMBLY OPERATION.

3. THESE FOLLOW-UP INSPECTIONS MUST BE EFFECTED BY INSPECTORS OF INSURANCE COMPANIES THAT WRITE BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL INSURANCE POLICIES IN THE UNITED STATES. (ASME BELIEVES THAT INSURANCE COMPANIES THAT ISSUE SUCH POLICIES ARE MOST LIKELY TO SEE TO IT THAT SAFETY REQUIREMENTS ARE CLOSELY OBSERVED.) TWO EUROPEAN COMPANIES WITH OPERATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES THAT ARE QUALIFIED TO PERFORM SUCH INSPECTIONS ARE ROYAL GLOBE INSURANCE COMPANY (BRITISH) AND ZURICH INSURANCE COMPANY (SWISS). KISSINGER

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